

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A breakaway torque wrench system, comprising:

a threaded member having a substantially circumferential outer surface and at least one axial groove defined in the circumferential outer surface;

a polymer breakaway torque wrench comprising;

a polymer arcuate engagement portion having an inner arcuate engagement surface, an angled flex portion, and at least one protrusion extending from the inner arcuate engagement surface, at least a portion of the inner arcuate engagement surface adapted to confrontingly engage a portion of the circumferential outer surface, and the at least one protrusion adapted to insertably engage within the at least one axial groove of the threaded member;

a handle operably connected to the angled flex portion of the arcuate engagement portion; and

wherein rotational movement of the engaged breakaway torque wrench correspondingly rotates the threaded member such that the angled flex portion correspondingly approaches the threaded member until a predefined torque level is reached ~~a portion of the arcuate engagement portion flexes~~ causing the at least one protrusion to disengage from the at least one axial groove.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the arcuate engagement portion is generally C-shaped.

3. Cancel

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the handle ~~portion~~ includes a handle aperture therethrough adapted to receive a handle device to facilitate rotational actuation of the breakaway torque wrench.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least the arcuate engagement portion is constructed of a thermopolymer.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the thermopolymer is a fluoropolymer.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the threaded member is a thermopolymer fastener.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the thermopolymer fastener is selected from a group consisting of: a bolt, a screw, threaded tubing, and a nut.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the threaded member includes internal threading.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the threaded member includes external threading.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a polymer breakaway torque wrench, comprising the steps of:

providing a polymer breakaway torque wrench including an arcuate engagement portion and a handle, the arcuate engagement portion having an inner arcuate engagement surface, ~~and~~ at least one tooth protrusion extending therefrom, and an angled flex portion operably connected to the handle;

providing a polymer threaded fastening member having a substantially circumferential outer surface and at least one axial groove defined in the circumferential outer surface;

positionably engaging a portion of the inner arcuate engagement surface of the torque wrench around the circumferential outer surface of the threaded member such that the at least one tooth protrusion insertably engages the at least one axial groove of the object; and

rotating the torque wrench about the longitudinal axis of the threaded member to correspondingly rotate the threaded member such that the angled flex portion correspondingly

approaches the threaded member until a predetermined torque level is obtained causing the at least one tooth protrusion to forceably disengage from the at least one axial groove of the threaded member.

12. Cancel

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein rotating of the breakaway torque wrench about the longitudinal axis of the threaded member is facilitated by actuation of ~~[[a]]~~ the handle ~~portion~~ of the breakaway torque wrench.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the handle ~~portion~~ includes a handle aperture therethrough to facilitate rotation of the torque wrench.

15. (Currently Amended) A thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench comprising:

a thermopolymer handle ~~portion~~;

a thermopolymer arcuate engagement portion operably attached to the handle ~~portion~~ and having

a thermopolymer inner arcuate engagement surface; ~~[[and]]~~

at least one thermopolymer protrusion extending from the arcuate engagement surface adapted to insertably engage a threaded member having at least one axial groove defined therein such that the at least one protrusion insertably engages the at least one axial groove;

an angled flex portion extending to the handle; and

wherein rotational movement of the engaged breakaway torque wrench correspondingly rotates the threaded member such that the angled flex portion correspondingly approaches the threaded member until a predefined torque level is reached and ~~a portion of the arcuate engagement portion flexes causing the at least one protrusion to disengage~~ disengages from the at least one axial groove.

16. (Currently Amended) The thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench of claim 15, wherein the handle ~~portion~~ includes a handle aperture therethrough adapted to receive a handle device to facilitate rotational actuation of the breakaway torque wrench.

17. (Original) The thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench of claim 15, wherein at least the thermopolymer arcuate engagement portion is constructed of a fluoropolymer.

18. (Currently Amended) The thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench of claim 15, wherein the thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench ~~and the threaded member are~~ is constructed of a fluoropolymer.

19. (Original) The thermopolymer breakaway torque wrench of claim 15, wherein the arcuate engagement portion is generally C-shaped.

20-24. (Cancel)

25. (Currently Amended) A fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system comprising:

means for handling the breakaway torque wrench;

fluoropolymer arcuate engagement means operably attached to the handle portion for engaging a threaded member having axial grooves defined therein, the arcuate engagement means having

a fluoropolymer inner arcuate engagement surface; and

at least one fluoropolymer protruding means extending from the arcuate engagement surface for insertably engaging at least one of the axial grooves of the threaded member; and

angled means operably connected to the means for handling, for providing operating flex such that the angled means correspondingly approaches the threaded member upon rotational actuation of the engaged threaded member until a predefined torque level is reached and the at least one protruding means disengages from the at least one axial groove of the threaded member.

26. (Currently Amended) The fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system of claim 25, wherein the means for handling includes a handle aperture therethrough adapted to receive a handle device to facilitate rotational actuation of the breakaway torque wrench

27. (Cancel)

28. (Currently Amended) The fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system of claim 25, wherein the arcuate engagement means is generally C-shaped.

29. (Currently Amended) The fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system of claim 25, wherein the threaded member is selected from a group consisting of: a bolt, a screw, threaded tubing, and a nut.

30. (Currently Amended) The fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system of claim 25, wherein the threaded member includes internal threading.

31. (Currently Amended) The fluoropolymer breakaway torque wrench system of claim 25, wherein the threaded member includes external threading.